HOW JESUS SPENT HIS VACATION TIME.

Mk.11:19 And every eneving He went forth out of the city.

INTRO: Christ's withdrawals from the multitudes
Their correspondence to our vacation time
Their significance.

I. <u>The Voice of Nature</u>

A. Unheard by many.

B. Speaking cruelty to some.

"Nature impales men, breaks them on the wheel, burns them with fire or crushes them with stones, starves them with hunger or freezes them with cold, perpetrates a death so hideousas to exceed the cruelty of Nero or Domitian; the exhalations of her swamps surpass the poison cups of Borgias; her epidemics are as destructive as human artillery; her hurricanes overmatch the horrors of the guillotine and the reign of terror during the French Revolution." John Stuart Mill.

C. Speaking help and companionship to others.

"To him who in the love of nature holds
Communion with her visible forms, she speaks
A various language; for his gayer hours
She has a voice of gladness, and a smile
And eloquence of beauty, and she glides
Into his darker musings with a mild
And healing sympathy that steals away
Their sharpness, ere he is aware."
William Cullen Bryant.

D. Speaking to Jesus Christ
(1) God revealed Himself to Christ in all nature.
a. The O.T. conception of nature.
b. The Master's conception a unique one.

E.ALL that scientist, philosopher, and poet have told us is but a fraction of what God has to say to us in nature
The four seasons are the moving pictures of God at work.

II. How we can spend our vacation time profitably.

A. For the purpose of re-creation.

B. Keen observation and careful meditation to be exercised.
(1)Christ, by means of pictures, incidents, illustrations and parables set forth profound truth simply and impressively.
Jn.12:24 Except a grain of wheat fall into the earth and die, it abideth by itself alone; but if it die it beareth much fruit.
Mtt.7:18,20 A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Therefore by their fruits ye shall know them.
(2) We,too, can draw from nature simply love and truth that ~~shall~~ brings us nearer to God, makes life's pathway clearer to us, and deepens our sense of fellowship with all living things.

III. Some examples of nature-lossons.

A. Underneath the surface of the earth is evidence of convulsions, upheavals, broken parts, and intense heat but Nature has covered them over with trees and flowers and running brooks.

B. Nature's recuperative powers.
(1) The burnt mountain across from Raymonds.
(2) The abandoned stage road from Palo Alto to Boulder.
We, too, can recover from our blows.

C. San Francisco Bay.
(1) Unity of life in variety of forms.
(2) Unity of human life as illustrated by islands of bay.

D. Mrs.F's comment upon the artichoke.
"Its only a university graduate, just an educated ~~thistle~~ thistle."
An example of what training and education can do.

E. Leaves. On the trail to the Retreat.

Is.64:6 "we all do fade as a leaf."

(1) The leaf- a neglected thing, overlooked by all.
(2) But it is a Life!
    a. it dies in due season.
    b. its spirit is set ~~fer~~ free
    c. the emblem, not of death, but of victory and life
        1. It has obeyed the laws of its being
        2. It has sheltered man, beast, bird, and stream.
        3. It has given wood and fruit
        4. It has paved the way for the next leaving.
    d. We, leaf-like, run our course and die. Ours may be a tiny, obscure life, but, if true to it and to Him who gave us the life, we die that we might live a truer and a richer and a nobler life.